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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/686,880	10/12/2000	Austin G. Smith	06999.0009	5994
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22852 7590 06/06/2002

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EXAMINER

CHEN, SHIN LIN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1632

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2002

16

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/686,880

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Shin-Lin Chen

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1632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04/01.02.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 42-65 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 55-57 and 59-63 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 42-54, 58, 64 and 65 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' amendment and priority paper filed 4-1-02 have been entered. Claims 47-50 have been amended. Claims 42-65 are pending and claims 42-54, 58, 64 and 65 are under consideration.

As discussed in the Official action mailed 8-16-01 (Paper No. 10) and applicants' election of group I, claims 42-54, 58, 64 and 65, as filed on 11-16-01, the invention under consideration is a method for generating a culture that is purified or enriched in neural progenitor cells from multipotential cells, such as ES cells, EG cells, EC cells, primary culture cells, by introducing into said multipotential cells one or more selectable marker. Applicants are reminded that claims 42-54, 58, 64 and 65 are under consideration with the understanding that the claimed method is limited to generating culture of purified or enriched **neuroprogenitor cells**.

Specification

1. The priority paper filed 4-1-02 amending the specification by inserting before the first line "This is continuation...PCT/GB99/01136..., which is **incorporated herein by reference**" is objected to under 35 U.S.C. 132 because it introduces new matter into the disclosure. 35 U.S.C. 132 states that no amendment shall introduce new matter into the disclosure of the invention. The added material which is not supported by the original disclosure is as follows: The oath/declaration only claims priority of PCT/GB99/01136 but fails to incorporate herein by reference. Thus, the amendment filed 4-1-02 introduce new matter into the specification.

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Applicant is required to cancel the new matter in the reply to this Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 42-54, 58, 64 and 65 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The term “multipotential cell” in claims 42, 44-49 and 52 is vague and renders the claims indefinite. It is unclear as to the metes and bounds of what would be considered “multipotential cell”. The definition published by National Institutes of Health (Stem cells: A Primer, <http://www.nih.gov/news/stemcell/primer.htm>, May 2000, p. 1-6) indicates that the fertilized egg is totipotent, the inner cell mass cells, where embryonic stem cells are derived, are pluripotent, and the more specialized stem cells are multipotent. Embryonic stem (ES) cells and embryonic germ (EG) cells are considered pluripotent cells. Therefore, ES and EG cells are not multipotent cells. It is unclear what type of cells are meant by the term “multipotential cell”.

Conclusion

No claim is allowed.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shin-Lin Chen whose telephone number is (703) 305-1678. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9 am to 5:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Scott Priebe can be reached on (703) 308-7310. The fax phone number for this group is (703) 308-4242.

Questions of formal matters can be directed to the patent analyst, Patsy Zimmerman, whose telephone number is (703) 305-2758.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist, whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Shin-Lin Chen, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Chen', is positioned below the printed name.